



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: BRENNFLECK, Matthias Michael

SERIAL NO.: 10/780,283

ART UNIT: 3679

FILED: February 17, 2004

EXAMINER: Kennedy J.T.

TITLE: CONNECTION ELEMENT

AMENDMENT "B"

Director of the U.S. Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of January 4, 2006, a response being due by April 4, 2006,
please consider the following remarks:

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, previous Claims 19 - 36 have been canceled and new Claims 37 - 51 substituted therefor. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the forgoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of placing the application into a proper condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that Claims 19 - 22, 24 - 25, 27 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by the O'Farrell patent. Claim 23 was rejected as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the O'Farrell patent. Claims 33 - 35 were rejected as being obvious over the O'Farrell patent in view of the Kristiansen patent. There were also minor

formality objections with respect to language of Claim 19. Importantly, it was indicated that Claims 26 and 29 - 31 are "objected to" as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable in rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's analysis with respect to the prior art rejections, Applicant is desirous of securing patent protection for the present invention at an early date. As such, Applicant placed those "objected to" claims into a properly allowable form.

In particular, new independent Claim 37 incorporates the limitations of previous independent Claim 19, along with the limitations of objected-to Claim 26 and intervening Claim 25. Additionally, the previous independent Claim 19 has been revised so as to incorporate certain changes to the language was objectionable. The term "lateral leg" is now identified as "first lateral leg". Dependent Claims 38 - 42 reflect the limitations of previous dependent Claims 20 - 24, respectively. Dependent Claims 43 and 44 reflect the limitations of previous dependent Claims 27 and 28, respectively. The dependencies of each of these new claims has been revised so reflect new independent Claim 37.

New independent Claim 45 incorporates the limitations of objected-to Claim 29, along with the limitations of base Claim 19 and the limitations of intervening Claim 28. As such, independent Claim 45 should be in a proper condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 46 incorporates the limitations of objected-to Claim 30 along with the limitations of base Claim 19 and intervening Claim 28. As such, independent Claim 46 should be in a proper condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 47 incorporates the limitations of objected-to Claim 31 along with the limitations of base Claim 19 and intervening Claim 28. As such, independent Claim 47 should now be in a proper condition for allowance.

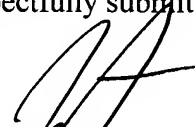
Dependent Claims 48 - 51 reflect the limitations, respectively, of previous dependent Claims 32 - 35.

Based upon the foregoing analysis, Applicant contends that independent Claims 37, 45, 46 and 47 are now in proper condition for allowance. Additionally, those claims which are dependent these independent claims should also be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims at an early date is earnestly solicited. Since one new independent claim has been added above those originally paid for and additional fee of \$100 is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

4.3.06



John S. Egbert
Reg. No. 30,627
Andrew W. Chu
Reg. No. 46,625
Attorney for Applicant
Egbert Law Offices
412 Main Street, 7th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713)224-8080
(713)223-4873 fax